Use of iron-ore fines

2242. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large quantities of iron-ore fines are generated in the course of mining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these fines are dumped as waste resulting into loss of our natural resources;

(c) if so, whether Government would make it compulsory for mine owners to set up modern plants, so as to beneficiate poor grade lump ore and iron-ore fines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) As per available information, Iron Ore Fines are generated as a part of the mining process of iron ore. There is a limited utilization of Fines by domestic steel industry. At present surplus fines generated in mining are being exported. The National Mineral Policy encourages mineral sectoral value addition through latest techniques of benefication, calibration, blending, sizing, concentration, pelletisation, purification and general customisation of product. However, such initiatives are guided by commercial factors of production, economic viability and demand from end-use industries.

Objections to Mineral Policy

2243. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the draft Mineral Policy, 2008 would do gross injustice to the mineral rich States as it has violated the interests of Orissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the above policy does not put emphasis on value addition within the State and reduces the scope for generation of employment opportunities/revenue for the State;

(c) whether this anti-mineral bearing States policy has been voiced against on the floor of the House time and again; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of Government to address the grievances of these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government had received representation from some states on the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 raising concerns on the need to allow the State Government to give preference to value addition within the state and allow preferential treatment in grant of mineral concessions to PSUs. These issues had been considered and appropriately addressed by the Government before

enunciation of National Mineral Policy, 2008. The policy seeks to encourage employment and tertiary sector spin offs from value addition as well as from mining so as to maximise the contribution of the mineral sector to the country's gross domestic product. The Government has approved new National Mineral Policy, 2008 on 13.3.2008. The new National Mineral Policy has been tabled in the Parliament and is available on website of Ministry of Mines *(http://mines.nic.in)*.

Mines in Maharashtra

2244. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mines of various minerals identified in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) whether there are more potential mineral reserves in Maharashtra which are yet to be mined and exploited;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken thereon;

(d) whether some agitations have been made by the farmers/communities against the land acquisition for mines in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per available information, the details of reporting mines in Maharastra state is given below:—

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Number of Reporting Mines	150	150	149

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of mineral reserves in Maharashtra are given in the Mineral Year Book, published by Indian Bureau of Mines, a copy of which has been supplied to the Parliament Library. To assess the mineral resources, various exploration agencies such as Geological Survey of India, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Maharastra, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, Manganese Ore India Limited *etc.* are engaged in exploration of base metal, coal, iron ore, Pyrophyllite/sillimanite, manganese ore *etc*.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Mining activities in Niyamgiris

2245. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to grant permission to a multinational company to dig up the Niyamgiris (Orissa) which is rich in Bauxite and is used in manufacture of aluminium;